

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

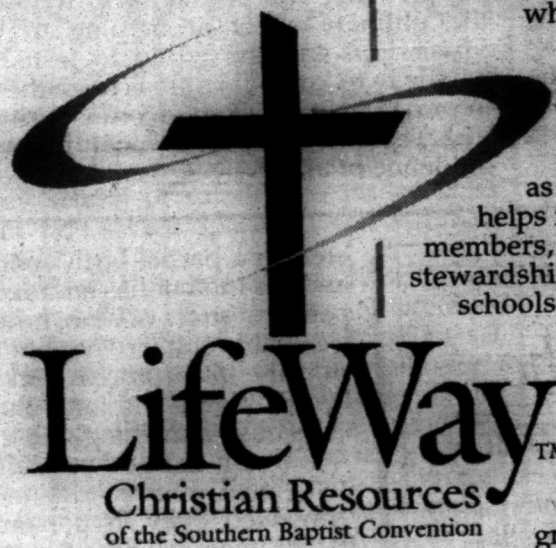
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BSSB completes name change to 'LifeWay'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The old Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) was transformed into the new LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in a June 19 service in Nashville held to celebrate and dedicate the institution's new name.

During the service, which included the unfurling of two 30-foot name banners as six herald trumpeters played a fanfare, several speakers paid tribute to the institution's long heritage of service and commitment to the future.

In the aftermath of the name change, LifeWay's church growth group has announced several name changes.

The church growth group — which is responsible for producing dated and undated resources in Sunday School, discipleship and music as well as leadership helps for pastors and staff members, media libraries, stewardship and Christian schools — will become LifeWay Church Resources Group.

With the name change of the group, the names of three of the four divisions in the group also will change.

The Bible teaching-reaching division will become the Sunday School division and unveil a new structure.

The name of the discipleship and family development division will be shortened to discipleship and family division.



A NEW DAY — A group of employees celebrate the Sunday School Board's new name, LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, as new banners are hung in front of the institution's downtown Nashville headquarters June 19. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

The name of the church leadership services division will become the LifeWay church leadership division.

The name of the operations division will remain the same.

In addition, the old BSSB web site address has changed from www.bssb.com to www.lifeway.com.

In addition to the various

LifeWay sites listed in the basement box below, cyber visitors to lifeway.com can find the newly added Broadman & Holman (B&H) Publishers area, which offers a Christian retailer locator guide, highlights top 10 B&H books and popular church supplies, provides gift ideas, including a list of new Bibles and reference books, and lists favorite Spanish products.

The B&H site also offers daily devotions under the link Experiencing God Today.

Coming July 1, the lifeway.com site will offer LifeWay Christian Stores Online.

Visitors to the site will have on-line ordering access to Bibles, books, music, supplies, videos, reference materials and other resources for pastors, church staff and teachers.

In other LifeWay Internet-related news, on-line ordering of dated and undated resources and EXTRA! Sunday School teaching helps for all age groups continue to grow in popularity with web surfers.

LifeWay webmaster David Haywood reported that more than 7,020 personal identification numbers have been assigned to churches interested in ordering LifeWay resources via the Internet.

Additionally, the final portion of LifeWay employees' e-mail addresses have changed to @lifeway.com.

For example, anyone sending LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. an e-mail may either use the first letter of the first name, six letters of the last name and @lifeway.com or his full name with a period between the first and last name (jdraper@lifeway.com or James.Draper@lifeway.com).

To aid customers in making the transition to the new name of LifeWay Christian Resources, web site, and e-mail addresses, both the bssb.com domain name and the @bssb.com email address will remain operational indefinitely.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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LifeWay web sites listed

Among sites that can be found at www.lifeway.com:

- ◆ EXTRA! (Sunday School teaching helps for all ages)
- ◆ Electronic order forms for dated and undated resources
- ◆ Bible InSites (adult biblical studies site)
- ◆ Christian Single (magazine)
- ◆ CrossSeekers (collegiate discipleship initiative)
- ◆ YouthScape (youth biblical studies site)
- ◆ Centrifuge (summer camps for youth)
- ◆ True Love Waits (sexual abstinence campaign for youth)
- ◆ KidTrek (children's biblical studies site)
- ◆ PreSource (preschool biblical studies site)
- ◆ Christian Growth Study Plan
- ◆ Information about conferences, events and new resources
- ◆ Vacation Bible School information/helps
- ◆ Facts & Trends, LifeWay news releases, a link to Baptist Press
- ◆ Information about working and/or writing for LifeWay

Looking back

10 years ago

The Foreign Mission Board on July 21 votes without dissent to terminate the services of Michael E. Willett, missionary to Venezuela. Board president R. Keith Parks recommended Willett's dismissal because of "doctrinal ambiguity."

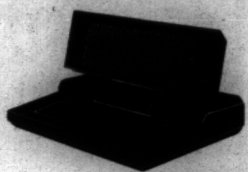
20 years ago

Robert G. Lee, three-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and a leading SBC pastor for 50 years, dies at home July 20 after a long illness. He was 91. Pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, for 33 years, Lee was best known for his sermon "Pay Day Someday."

50 years ago

At the evening worship service on July 11, Sardis Church, Sardis, dedicated a new baptistry. As a part of the dedication, pastor M. G. Reedy baptizes 23 candidates into the fellowship of the church.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Perkins Jr.**
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Dear editor . . .

It happens every year at about this time, a couple of weeks after the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Readers of The Baptist Record call or write to inquire why letters to the editor dealing with convention matters are so one-sided.

Then comes the inevitable question: "Are you screening out letters that don't agree with your point of view?" The answer is no, but the question prompts the perennial explanation of how The Baptist Record goes about publishing letters to the editor — one of the most heavily-read sections of any newspaper.

If you remember reading this in late July of last year or the year before, you have an excellent memory and are herewith allowed to skip to the Guest Opinion below. If you are a new reader, need a refresher course, or your memory is faulty (the category into which most editors fall), please read on.

We believe the letters to the editor section of the newspaper is an ideas forum for Mississippi Baptists and others to express themselves on issues of importance to them.

What is important to one reader may not be as important to another reader, but the letters to the editor section is the place where those views and opinions are aired.

The Baptist Record does not screen out letters to the editor, as long as the letter fits the guidelines published whenever letters to the editor appear in the newspaper. Those guidelines include:

- ◆ Unsigned letters will not be published. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

- ◆ Each correspondent must include the name of the cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. That's because Mississippi Baptist's letters will receive priority when space is limited.

- ◆ Letters must be limited to 250 words, and all correspondence is subject to editing.

- ◆ Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

- ◆ No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

- ◆ When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

There are of course a few unwritten, common-sense rules. No letter will appear in The Baptist Record that is heretical on its face or obviously contrary to Baptist doctrine.

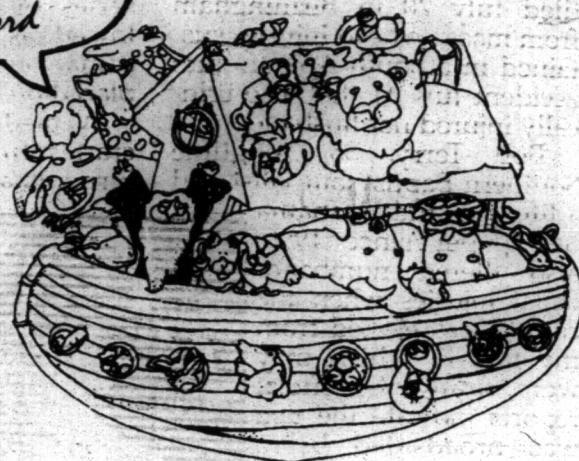
Perfect grammar is not required, but the newspaper's editorial staff reserves the right to correct grammatical mistakes and confusing sentence structure.

Any letter that solicits money for programs or activities not approved by, or in concert with, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board goals are subject to rejection.

When a letter refers to a third party to contact for more information, that third party must approve the use of his/her name.

You can increase the chances your letter will appear promptly in The Baptist Record by writing concisely and getting to the point as quickly as possible. Although the published guidelines clearly state that the maximum length is 250 words, it's not unusual for the newspaper to receive a 1,200-word letter to the editor.

Turn Back!
I forgot the
Baptist Record



That means we are forced to edit out most of the letter, with the risk of losing the point altogether. We don't like doing that. If you keep your letter to 250 words, you don't have to worry about the point getting lost in the editing.

Lastly, you should consider someone's viewpoint as expressed in a letter to the editor to be as valid as your own viewpoint. It doesn't advance the cause of Christ to belittle or ridicule someone's heartfelt opinion.

Advancing the cause of Christ is the only reason The Baptist Record exists. The letters to the editor section must reflect that reality.

Will what you are about to write have the ultimate effect of helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus? The only way to know for sure is to go the Lord in prayer before a single word is written.

After all, that's the most important guideline of all.

GUEST OPINION:



*Legal? Maybe.
Right? Never!*

*By John H. Voss, pastor
Calvary Church, Hattiesburg*

The recent tragedy involving two Delaware teenagers who murdered their newborn son in a New Jersey motel and then threw his body in a trash bin serves as a vivid testimony to the twisted logic of our abortion laws.

Brian Peterson and Amy Grossberg pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison for committing the crime of manslaughter.

Had they taken other options legally available to them, they would have completely avoided any criminal charges and no public notice of their actions would have ever been taken — even though the end result would have been completely the same.

In short, until the moment of their baby's birth they could have hired a willing doctor to abort their baby or, even in the final hours or moments before birth, to partially deliver the child vaginally and take its life by cranial incision and suction prior to complete delivery.

The doctor would probably have then tossed the baby's remains in a dumpster, just as the teens did.

I am completely dumbfounded that in our society the same act is either completely permissible or totally illegal, and the legal distinction is one

of the best kept secrets of the abortion rights movement.

Congress has twice passed legislation to prevent late term or partial birth abortions. President Clinton has vetoed the legislation and consistently declined to favor such restrictions, citing the need to protect the health of the mother as justification for maintaining this hideous procedure.

Partial delivery abortions are performed by turning the fetus so that it is delivered in a breach or feet-first position.

Once all of the body except the head has been delivered, the physician makes an incision into the base of the skull and removes a sufficient amount of the fetal brain by suction to cause death.

Thus, the baby dies partially delivered while its head is still within the vaginal canal. This form of abortion is completely

legal and is done every day in America.

Here is the absurd distinction: If the fetal head is delivered and then the incision made and its life taken — even if done immediately following complete birth — it constitutes the crime of murder.

The distinction between a legal taking of the baby's life and the illegal crime of murder is the few inches between the base of its skull and the top of its head.

President Clinton cites the need to maintain this procedure as a form of therapeutic abortion in order to protect the life and health of the mother.

The law has long recognized protection of maternal health as a justifiable basis for a therapeutic abortion.

However, a second absurdity emerges. Since the fetal body has been almost totally deliv-

ered in a partial birth abortion, and the mother has endured the pain and stress of birth, how can it possibly enhance her health to stop the birth process and take her baby's life with only the top of its head remaining unborn?

It doesn't affect her health; it just legally gets rid of an unwanted baby. It personifies the willingness of the American people and their president to condone infanticide for the sake of political expediency.

Brian and Amy are now felons for life. They have endured the glare of the national media and brought shame and disgrace upon themselves and their families.

Had they simply hired a abortionist to kill their baby for them, everything would have been completely legal.

They would happily be returning to college this fall rather than going to prison, and one more baby would have been killed with no public notice or outcry.

If we continue to accept this insane and unconscionable application of the law under the guise of "freedom of choice," may God have mercy on us.

Voss is vice president and general counsel for Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., in Jackson.

Miss. native killed in South Africa auto accident

BIRMINGHAM (BP and local reports) — Vicksburg native Eleanor Foster Terry, 55, wife of The Alabama Baptist newspaper editor Bob Terry, died July 20 in Birmingham from massive head injuries sustained in a South African auto accident July 11 that also critically injured her husband.

Bob Terry, 55, longtime Southern Baptist journalist and editor of the Alabama newspaper since 1995, also suffered a number of facial injuries when the couple was ejected from the taxi in which they were riding. Unofficial reports indicate the taxi was broadsided by a speeding car that ran a red light.

The Terrys were in Durban, South Africa, to attend the Baptist World Alliance General Council on July 5-11.

Dennis Jones, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary in Durban, reported shortly after the accident that both Terrys were conscious and alert, "pretty

banged up but doing fine."

While Bob continued to improve, however, Eleanor took a turn for the worse in reaction to her head injuries. A series of medical crises followed as she drifted into a coma on July 15 and was placed on life support systems.

A medical evacuation aircraft returned the Terrys to Birmingham on July 20 after a

harrowing 30-hour flight in which Eleanor suffered several more medical emergencies that nearly took her life.

At one point, reports from the MedJet International, Inc., aircraft erroneously indicated she had died en route to Birmingham.

Bob Terry issued a statement shortly after the couple's arrival in Birmingham. "We are battered and broken but we are not forgotten. God

promised when we are weak, he will make us strong. Please continue to pray for us. Your concern will be light for us in this present darkness," he wrote.

Eleanor Terry was a member of First Church, Vicksburg, during her youth. She was a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, holding the bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from that institution and a

Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

Bob Terry is also a Mississippi College graduate and holds a D.Min. degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He served as editor of Missouri Baptists' Word and Way newspaper for a number of years prior to returning to his native state to manage The Alabama Baptist.

Funeral services for Eleanor Terry will be held at 3 p.m. on July 24 at Dawson Memorial Church in Birmingham. In addition to her husband, she is survived by two children, one grandchild, a number of siblings that could not be identified by publication deadline, and her mother Catherine Foster of Vicksburg.

Bob Terry may be contacted at The Alabama Baptist, P.O. Box 59685, Birmingham, AL 35259-9685.



Eleanor and Bob Terry



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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NOBTS, Carey announce partnership

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) in New Orleans and William Carey College in Hattiesburg have announced an agreement for the William Carey school of nursing to utilize classroom and office space on the seminary campus.

Through this agreement, NOBTS students and their spouses who are interested in the many types of medical missions service or in preparing professionally for a bivocational ministry would be able to study for an accredited nursing degree on the New Orleans Seminary campus and complete the 20 hours of seminary education required by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) before appointment — and thus in one location become qualified for career medical missions.

At the same time, William Carey nursing students who want to be career missionaries with IMB may enroll at the seminary to obtain the required 20 hours of Southern Baptist theological education.

"Partnership for missions and education has always been the Baptist way," said Chuck Kelley, NOBTS president. "We are delighted to welcome the William Carey school of nursing to our campus."

"We believe it will enhance our ability to deliver training for medical missions as effectively and inexpensively as possible."

Larry Kennedy, interim president of William Carey College, said, "We are fortunate to forge this partnership with another Baptist institution and feel that our outstanding program offering in both pre-nursing and nursing courses leading to the bachelor of science in nursing degree will flourish in this setting as we continue preparing our graduates for lives of Christian service."

Steve Lemke, seminary provost, said, "To our knowledge, no other seminary of any kind has a nursing school on its campus to provide state-of-the-art nursing

education for students. This is the first time we are aware of a seminary offering medical missionaries the opportunity to get both their nursing training and theological training in one place."

Noting this arrangement is not out of the ordinary for NOBTS, Lemke said New Orleans Seminary always has been deeply supportive of Baptist college life.

Other coordinated agreements New Orleans Seminary has had with Baptist colleges include extension centers providing graduate theological education on the campuses of Mississippi College near Jackson since 1986 and Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, Fla., since 1990.

For approximately the same time, New Orleans Seminary has had library articulation agreements with other Baptist colleges, such as Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas, and Shorter College in Rome, Ga., because of their proximity to other NOBTS extension centers.

In addition, New Orleans Seminary's recently announced Baptist College Partnership Program provides accelerated, advanced education for students with undergraduate work in religion, thus motivating students to be religion majors at the Baptist colleges, Lemke said. Currently 50 Baptist colleges are supported by various Southern Baptist state conventions.

"We strongly encourage high school graduates to attend the Baptist colleges," Lemke said.

The William Carey school of nursing will occupy the auxiliary classroom building on the west side of the NOBTS campus, which until this summer housed the computer lab. During the summer, part of the seminary's 119,000-square-foot Hardin Student Center has been renovated to create a new computer complex for students and faculty.

"William Carey school of nursing has

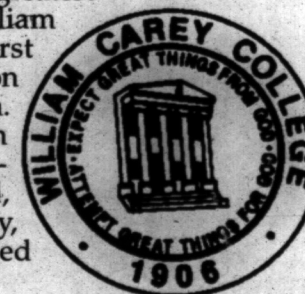
enjoyed a positive relationship over the years with what is now the Baptist campus of Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans," Kennedy said.

The college has offered the bachelor of science in nursing degree in New Orleans since 1968 when it merged with the prestigious Mather School of Nursing. "Graduates have brought honor to themselves and the denomination for 30 years," Kennedy said.

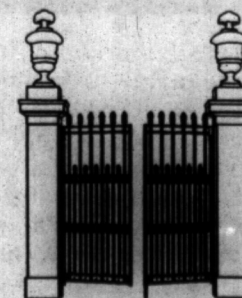
Mary Ware, dean of the William Carey school of nursing, said, "We look forward to having a positive relationship with the seminary."

Beginning its 81st academic year in August, New Orleans Seminary now will have two campus buildings associated with the name of the world's greatest pioneering missionary, William Carey (1761-1834), whose first overseas missionary expedition in 1793 was with a physician. Indicating the seminary's keen interest in missionary endeavors both at home and abroad, the NOBTS women's dormitory, constructed in 1953, is named William Carey Hall.

According to IMB statistics, one out of every 14 eligible New Orleans Seminary graduates and former students have served as IMB missionaries. Of those, New Orleans Seminary graduates were the first Southern Baptist missionaries or representatives in more than 20 countries, including most recently Lithuania.



New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary



Youth take other view of summer vacation

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

For some teens the highlight of the summer is a week long trip to an amusement park or some other mega-attraction where thousands of American teens go.

However, group of young people in Lee County have a different idea about how to spend a week of summer vacation.



DOING MISSIONS — First Church, Plantersville, participants in the 1998 Lee Association Mission Blitz were (from the left) Amanda Parchman, 10th grader at Shannon High School; Katie Hamilton, sophomore at Itawamba Community College in Fulton; Amber Walters, senior at Shannon High School; and Wade Murphy, minister of youth and music at First Church, Plantersville. (Photo by Carl M. White)

"This is what we look forward to every year," said 18-year-old Katie Hamilton, a sophomore at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, with young people from First Church, Plantersville, around her nodding in agreement. "It's the highlight of the year," she added.

She's not speaking of a whitewater ride down some mountain stream, or a sparkling clean resort with miles of sandy white beaches. Hamilton is speaking of Mission Blitz, an annual week-long mission effort of Lee County Baptists.

Mission Blitz involves teams of young people and adults leading backyard Bible clubs in apartment complexes and trailer parks all around Tupelo and Lee County, according to Lee Association director of missions Bill Smith.

The missions blitz was started some 12 years ago by Smith; Marjean Patterson executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union; and mission associate Tim Welford.

Smith said there are 19 local churches involved in this year's effort.

"Some years we have had as many as six or eight out-of-town churches involved, but in recent years it has become basically a Lee County Association project," he said.

"This is evangelism," said Brad Ligon, minister to children at First Church, Verona. Ligon is a recent graduate of Tupelo High School and will be attending Blue Mountain College this fall.

"Not only are you telling people how Jesus died on the cross for their sins, you are teaching youth how to do evangelism," he said.

This year his group from First Church, Verona, is leading a Backyard Bible Club at Barley Courts apartments. They have had up to 30 children each day, divided into five different groups by age and gender. Ligon has been helping with the fourth through sixth grade girls.

"We have been teaching them about the 12 disciples, how Jesus called each of them from whatever they were doing and made them into something they never dreamed of. We are telling these children that Jesus can do the same with their lives," he said.

Amanda Parchman, a 16-year-old sophomore at Shannon High who attends First Church, Plantersville, has also been working with older children at the mission church in Oak Park trailer park.

"Some of these children don't know even the basic things," Parchman said. "This one little girl, about six, asked me who Mary was. I told her that she was the woman who had the baby Jesus," she said.

"It is amazing, so many of these kids are basically unchurched. They literally don't know who Jesus is," she added.

This year Smith expects over 400 children to be touched at 19 different sites around the county. He anticipates there will be as many as 50 children saved.

"I love working with kids," Parchman said. "It makes me feel good to know I am helping them learn about God."

For more information on the Lee County Mission Blitz contact Smith at the Lee County Baptist Association, P. O. Box 7116, Tupelo, MS 38802-7116. Telephone: (601) 566-1700.

Alarm sounded on 'Saint Elsewhere' Syndrome

SALADO, Texas (ABP) — The "Saint Elsewhere" Syndrome can kill Christian marriages, family therapists Walter and Françoise Becker warned couples at a retreat sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics based in Nashville.

The syndrome takes its name from a statement by a minister's wife whose marriage was failing: "He's a saint elsewhere, but he always comes home tired. He just wants to

crash; he retreats to his own space. He's never 'there' for anyone in our family."

The Saint Elsewhere Syndrome afflicts countless clergy couples, said the Beckers, who operate Gray Fox Ranch, a private New Mexico marriage retreat for ministers and spouses.

A Saint Elsewhere exhibits three primary predispositions, he said. The person feels overly responsible for everything that happens, wants to be a peace-

maker at all costs, and has a "pseudo-self" or public identity that is very strong.

In a Saint Elsewhere, "the public self gets strengthened, and the real self gets smaller and smaller. The public self becomes who I am. Then, not only do I not know myself, but others — including my spouse — don't know me," Walter Becker said.

The troubled couple might remain together, but theirs is only a "functional relatedness,"

revolving around the day-to-day functions of the household, she explained, noting, "Emotional connectedness dies out."

"At its worst, it gets to be an addiction," he stressed. "The performer gets more out of work than coming home and thinks of reasons to stay away. And for every addict, there is a co-addict, who tries to help but puts more blame and pressure on the performer. The performer, who gets more praise elsewhere, stays away and this increases the syndrome."

"Then they have an empty shell of a marriage," she said. If the couple stays together, the marriage is "purely functional."

Couples afflicted with the syndrome need "early intervention," he advised, noting help with communication can help head off serious problems.

Couples should work on communication and intimacy regularly, she urged, advocating that couples make time for some form of "date" every week.

Christ is at the center of the circle of true marital intimacy, they insisted, for only Christ can produce unconditional love.

"Unconditional love" is covenant love," he explained, "based on God's covenant with his people: 'I shall be your God, and you shall be my people.'"

That kind of love enables couples to "grace" each other, they noted. Grace provides for complete acceptance of each other, forgiveness, and "allowing for the uniqueness of the other," he said.

Central Hills facilities to be dedicated on Aug. 8



A new recreational vehicle park and meeting center (left photo) at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko will be dedicated on Aug. 8 at 1:30 p.m. The park and building were constructed by volunteer labor composed primarily of Mississippi Campers on Mission fellowship members. Coordinators for the project were (right photo, from left) Don Ball of Woolmarket and Randy Hurst of Biloxi. Noting that fully half of the boys who attend camping programs at the state Royal Ambassadors campground make a spiritual decision of same kind, Hurst said, "Campers on Mission have a desire



to join God's work here." The RV park will accommodate up to 41 vehicles or trailers, with connections for electricity, water, and sewer. The meeting center will seat more than 200 people and has two smaller meeting rooms, a laundry, and a bath house. The facilities will be available for meetings such as the Campers on Mission Rally to be held there on Aug. 6-9. For more information, contact the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

Tupelo ready to launch job corps program

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Lee Association is on the verge of launching a Christian Woman's Job Corps (CWJC) program after a 14-member committee met July 14 to approve an initial budget, discuss plans for fund raising and hiring a coordinator, and set a possible start up date.

CWJC is a holistic training program for women in need launched by the national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Birmingham. It is designed to provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment.

After successful pilot programs were conducted during 1996 in Texas, South Carolina, Illinois, Ohio, Alabama, Washington, D.C., and North Dakota, a national certification training event was held at WMU headquarters in Birmingham in August 1997. Six Mississippians attended.

The first Mississippi CWJC training took place at First Church, Tupelo, on Jan. 8, 1998. A second training event took place at University Church, Hattiesburg, on May 22, 1998. A third training event is planned for central Mississippi, with the date to be announced later.

Lee Association hopes to open a Tupelo site in August.

Ralph Cain, director of outreach for Lee Association, said the need for a program like CWJC has never been greater.

Lee County Baptists assisted over 800 families through their ministry center in 1997, Cain indicated. "We've already helped over 800 families this year," he said.

He attributes the increase to two factors. First, there is the attraction of a strong economy in Lee County. "People move here looking for jobs. Sometimes they don't get their first check for a month."

Second, Cain said the rules for welfare support have gotten tougher. "We have people who have been living off of welfare benefits for three generations," he said.

Today there are limits, he observed, and more people are seeking help elsewhere.

The basic approach of CWJC is mentoring. Through an assessment process, a woman on welfare is identified and paired with a Christian woman who volunteers to serve as a mentor.

Both mentor and client agree to a covenant relationship. The program then offers Bible study, life skills, and job skills training programs.

The goal, according to the WMU literature, is to move women from dependency to self-sufficiency.

"This is very exciting," said George

Bogartus, chairman of the CWJC committee, "and if God is in it, it will be great."

For more information on the Tupelo CWJC project, contact Ralph Cain at Lee Baptist Association, P. O. Box 7116, Tupelo, MS 38802-7116. Telephone (601) 566-1700.

For more information about CWJC in Mississippi contact the Mississippi WMU at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Ziglar pens 'Confessions' upon daughter's death

DALLAS (BP) — He has written a dozen books that have sold more than 5 million copies. Shared the platform with three U.S. presidents and congressmen, generals, and renowned scholars. Appeared on "60 Minutes," "The Today Show," "20/20" and "Hour of Power."

However, when Mississippi native Zig Ziglar talks about the death of his oldest daughter Suzan, his voice cracks

with emotion and shrinks to a mere whisper.

To be released in September by Thomas Nelson Publishers, "Confessions of a Grieving Christian" chronicles his valley of pain after his daughter's death on May 13, 1995. It is written in journal form, although the manuscript has been edited to tie various themes together.

Writing it was especially poignant, Ziglar said, since his

1978 best-seller, "Confessions of a Happy Christian," was created specifically for the oldest of his four children.

At the time Suzan had not accepted the Lord. Soon after its release, she read it and told him, "It's so exciting. I've never seen so much happiness jump off the pages of a book." About two weeks later she told him she had accepted Christ as her Savior.

Although she suffered from a hardening of the lungs for about five years, the end of her life at age 46 came unexpectedly, Ziglar said. Suzan left behind a husband, Chad, and two daughters, ages 15 and 12.

After her funeral, Ziglar's pastor, Jack Graham of Dallas' Prestonwood Church, suggested the new book and its title. Writing his thoughts on grief and other reactions proved helpful in working through the process.

Still, he is not finished grieving the loss of his daughter. Thus, writing the book proved to be the toughest thing he has ever done in his life.

Ziglar hopes readers of his 13th book find hope and a strengthening of their faith that will make a difference in their lives.

While he can't understand how a non-Christian could read it and not accept Christ, he realizes that isn't likely to happen every time.

"I believe everybody who reads the book will be encouraged," he said,

"and those who are Christians will walk more closely with the Lord and receive continuous hope and encouragement."

Several things help him avoid wallowing in self-pity, he said:

- ◆ the sense of responsibility his mother taught him. There have been times when he was tempted to give up, but he kept going because of responsibilities to his family and God.

- ◆ the long list of tasks he believes God has for him, including teaching, speaking, and writing. In addition to books and motivational materials, he pens a daily newspaper column, "Something to Smile About."

- ◆ the blessing of good health. At 71, his health scientifically measures better than at age 45, the year he became a Christian.

- ◆ the knowledge that Suzan is in a better place. Ziglar recalled a trip to Washington about six weeks after her death. As he and his wife, Jean, went to breakfast, he wondered aloud where Suzie was at that moment.

"Immediately I said, 'Shucks, I know where she is, she's with the Lord. And I know exactly what she's doing; she's praising him.' The thought occurred to me that while I thought I knew where the rest of my children were, I really didn't."

"As I say in the book, if I was given a choice of taking her back, without giving it a thought, I'd say, 'Absolutely not,'" Ziglar said.

"It would be selfishness personified because she's so much better off now than when she was with us. Her mother and I, to the best of our ability, taught her to live. She taught us how to die."

READY FOR CWJC — The planning committee for the Christian Woman's Job Corps (CWJC) program in Lee County are (front row, from left) Jane Burns, Mildred Lollar, and Morris Jarvis, all members of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; (back row, from left) Ralph Cain, East Heights Church, Tupelo; Leland Cook, First Church, Tupelo; Gary Chandler, First Church, Shannon; Catherine Evers, Calvary Church, Tupelo; Bill Smith, director of missions, Lee Association; Gloria McKinney, Itawamba Community College/Tupelo; Eleanor Woody and Jean Curtis, both of First Church, Shannon; and Willodine Nelms, Calvary Church, Tupelo. (Photo by Carl M. White)

New Southern Baptist Falwell lauds 'fundamentalist' schools

LYNCHBURG, Va. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) now has six "fundamentalist" seminaries, according to Jerry Falwell.

Falwell, the lifelong independent Baptist who recently became a Southern Baptist, used the term as a compliment when endorsing the six SBC schools on the front page of the July issue of his National Liberty Journal newspaper.

Falwell's article, titled "Southern Baptist Convention Defies Prophets of Doom," gives a glowing endorsement of the SBC, its seminaries and agencies. "All six SBC seminaries now have fundamentalist presidents and faculties," he wrote. "All its agencies now have fundamentalist leadership. The overwhelming majority of its pastors are Bible-believing men of God."

What has happened in the SBC since 1979 was not a takeover by conservatives but a "spiritual revolution," Falwell explained. "I was taught by sincere and godly men during Bible college days, over 45 years ago, that a denomination which goes liberal can never be recovered theologically," he continued. "Most evangelicals in those days believed that apostasy could be remedied only by judgment. I preached that philosophy myself."

Changes in the SBC have proved otherwise, Falwell said.

In the article, Falwell explains to his newspaper audience that he and other members of Thomas Road Church in Lynchburg, Va., attended the recent SBC annual meeting as messengers for the first time. He predicted more independent Baptist churches will follow his lead and join the SBC.

"While Thomas Road Church continues its relationship with and support of Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries and other independent Baptist missions, we have also officially thrown our enthusiastic support behind the historic and unprecedented conservative 'revolution' which has taken place within the SBC during the past 20 years. Many of our sister churches have done the same and many more will in the months and years to come," he said.



The youth of Wade Church, Pascagoula, recently completed a mission trip to McMinnville, Tenn. As a result of door-to-door evangelism, 22 professions of faith were recorded. Philip Price is minister of youth. W. L. "Bill" Barton is pastor.

Youth participate in Area Music Festivals

Twelve Mississippi Baptist Area Keyboard Festivals were held in churches around the state during the last full weekend in January, with 1,421 participants in grades one through twelve.

These participants represented 586 churches from 63 associations and 178 towns and cities. Assisting were 392 music leaders and church members.

Participants in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades who achieved superior in their presentations moved on to attend the keyboard part of the State Youth Four Part Music Festival, Feb. 28, at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

The youths who achieved superior ratings on their presentations at Area Keyboard and Vocal Festivals, participated in the State Youth Four Part Music Festival sponsored by the Church Music Department, of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Dot Pray coordinated the keyboard part with L. Graham Smith as facilitator and Susan Clark as leader of the vocal part. All keyboard participants attained superior in each area of adjudication and received \$25 scholarships to a Baptist summer music event. Keyboard graduating seniors were awarded \$200 music scholarships to a Mississippi college of their choice.

Dedication for renovation of the sanctuary will be held at Crowder Church, North Delta Association, on Aug. 9 at 11 a.m. A noon meal will be served in fellowship hall. The guest speaker will be Danny Smith of Walls. Ben James is pastor.

The Children's Choir of Mississippi and Youth Ensemble will have its final auditions for the 1998-99 season. The choir is open to boys and girls in the fourth grade and above. The ensemble is composed of ninth through twelfth graders. For more information call Joanna Hunt, director, at (601) 991-3175.

Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation, Memphis, recently awarded HOPE Health Center for the Homeless a grant of more than \$100,000 to be used toward the improvement of three of the Center's programs. The money from the grant will go toward programs to improve the lives and the health care status of homeless men, women, and children in the community. HOPE Health Center for the Homeless opened in April 1997. The Center is a partnership among Baptist College of Health Sciences, the U.S. Department of Housing, and Urban Development, and the City of Memphis.



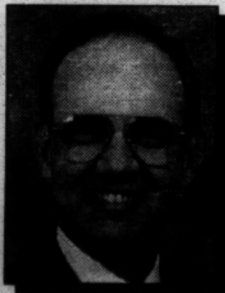
Vocal and Keyboard participants



Progress Church, Pike County, recently held homecoming services commemorating 70 years of ministry. Two of the three charter members present (pictured) were Velma Lee Addison and Wanda Henry. Billy Ray Simmons is pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Grenada, called Tim Williams as pastor effective Jan. 1. He previously served for 12 years as pastor at Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus.



Williams

Calvary Church, Meridian, has called Bill Goble as minister of music and education. His previous place of service was First Church, Stonewall. Goble is a graduate of William Carey College and attends New Orleans Seminary.

First Church, Lake, called Ken McLemore as pastor effective July 4. He and his family previously served as foreign missionaries in Moldova.

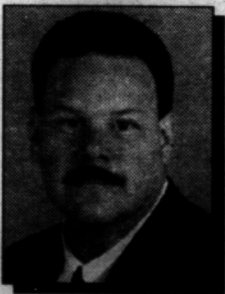
Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, has called Tim McCaffrey as pastor effective July 12. A native of Lincoln County, McCaffrey received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Clear Branch Church, Rankin County.

Bissell Church, Tupelo, extended a call to T. K. Brann as interim pastor effective July 12. He previously served Southside Church, Aberdeen.

Marty Steelmon began his ministry with Calvary

Church, West Point, on June 1.

A native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., Steelmon is a graduate of Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala., and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Cedar Ridge Church, Decatur, Ala.



Steelmon

Ebenezer Church, Bassfield, called Tim Roaten as pastor

effective May 31 and Tammy Roaten as minister of music effective June 1. Tim Roaten, a native of Union County, previously served at Parkhill Church,

Jackson. He received his education at Blue Mountain College. Tammy Roaten, a native of Tupelo, also received her education at Blue Mountain.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 23, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Jesus On Leadership

A Conference for Sunday School Directors
and Discipleship Training Directors



Speaker:
Gene Wilkes

August 11, 1998, at Golden Triangle Baptist Association
Office Building, Columbus

August 13, 1998, at Poplar Springs Drive Baptist
Church, Meridian

Time: 6-9 p.m.

"A conference especially designed for Sunday School and Discipleship
Training directors. We will focus on what we can learn about leadership
by looking at the life of Jesus."

author of *Jesus On Leadership*



1998

Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office Skillshops Camp Garaywa, Clinton



PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

AUGUST 18-20, 1998

LANA ROSE, certified church secretary instructor for
the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Church
Annuity Accounts/Church Secretaries Specialist,
Tennessee Baptist Convention

MINISTRY OFFICE SKILLSHOPS

AUGUST 18-20, 1998

NELL COLLINS, certified church secretary
instructor for the Baptist Sunday School
Board, and administrative assistant, First
Baptist Church, Longview, Texas



TO REGISTER:

Complete this form and mail with your check made out to
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to:
MBCB, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.,
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Please enroll me in the following Seminar:

- ☐ PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION
☐ SKILLSHOPS: _____ "Basic Business English" and/or
_____ "Ministry in Times of Crisis"

Seminar Date: August 18-20, 1998

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Church: _____

☐ I am a current member of NASBS.

Conference Fee included:

CERTIFICATION (\$100/\$95)* \$ _____

SKILLSHOPS: Basic Business English (\$50/\$47.40)* \$ _____

Ministry in Times of Crisis (\$50/\$47.50)* \$ _____

* for NASBS members

Accommodations:

Two nights and 7 meals (\$57) \$ _____

Monday night lodging and Tuesday breakfast (\$16.50) \$ _____

\$ _____ for the following meals only (no lodging needed):

☐ Tuesday lunch (\$4.75) ☐ Tuesday supper (\$4.75)

☐ Wednesday breakfast (\$3.50) ☐ Wednesday lunch (\$4.75)

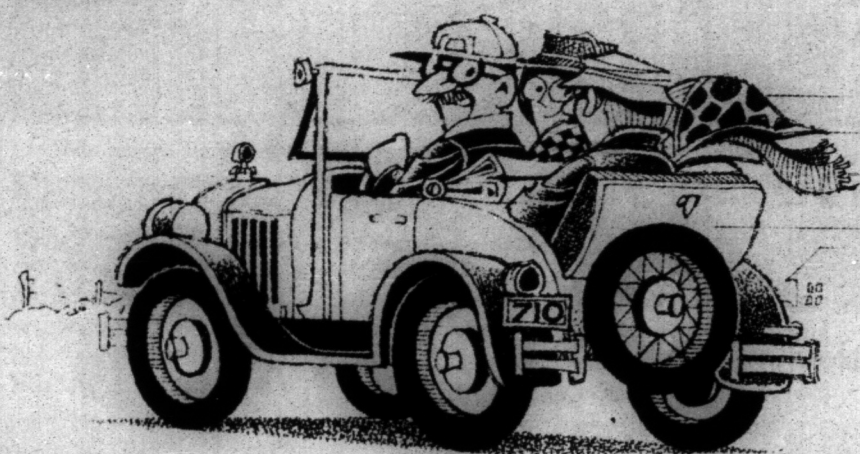
☐ Wednesday supper (\$4.75)

☐ Thursday breakfast (\$3.50) ☐ Thursday lunch (\$4.75)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ (Conference
fee plus Accommodations)

Reservations must be received no later than July 31, 1998. Full refund will be
made if notice of cancellation is received prior to July 31.

Mississippi Senior Adults



1998 Events

Regional Rallies

August 31
FBC, Holly Springs

September 1
Parkway BC, Clinton

September 3
Temple BC, Hattiesburg

Cost
\$1 at the door

Schedule
8:30.....Registration
9:00.....Rally
10:00.....Break
10:15.....Conferences
11:30.....Adjourn

Conferences

Energizer

Featuring Irene Martin, Harpersville, and
Cajun preacher, Mickey Bounds, Vicksburg

Marriage in Senior Years

Featuring Dr. and Mrs. James Richardson,
Madison

Basic Leadership

(for those with less than five years experience). Featuring Ken Hopkins, minister
with senior adults, Temple Baptist Church,
Hattiesburg

Advance Leadership

(for those with more than five years experience). Featuring Dale Oden, minister
with senior adults, Temple Baptist Church,
Ruston, La.

Women on Mission Celebration

Worship and Inspiration
Small Group Interests Sessions

Missionary Speaker: **Gloria Thurman, Bangladesh**
Music: **Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville**

Cost: \$50 lodging, 3 meals, \$35 meals only, \$20 no meals or lodging

September 18-19, 1998
Gulfshore Baptist
Assembly
Pass Christian



REGISTRATION FORM

Church/Assn. _____ Phone _____
Contact Person _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number of Women _____ x cost per person _____ =
Total enclosed: _____

Full refunds until August 18
(no cancellations on phone)
Make checks payable to:
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Mail to: WMU Conference
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571



Color Your Year With Music

1998
Preschool/Children's
Choir Leadership Training

SCHEDULED PLACES & DATES

Saturday, August 15

FBC, Brandon

Preschool - Barry Tweedy

Younger Children - Katrina Marler

Older Children - Anthony & Judy Turner

1-6 Grades - Gloria Speed

Saturday, August 22

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Preschool - Debbie Wren

Younger Children - Charlotte McElroy

Older Children - Martha Robinson

1-6 Grades - Rhonda Armstrong

Saturday, August 22

Temple BC, Hattiesburg

Preschool - Barry Tweedy

Younger Children - Vicki Smith

Older Children - Tommy Gillon

1-6 Grades - Kathy Langworthy

Sponsored by the

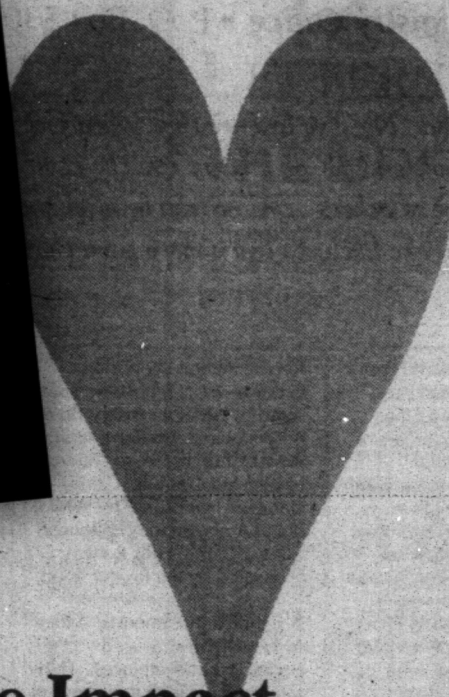
Church Music Department

Sarah Talley, children's choir contract consultant

L. Graham Smith, director



Jeff & Debbie McElroy



Marriage Impact

September 18-19

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo
featuring Jeff & Debbie McElroy

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WMU Church Leadership Training Conference Camp Garaywa

JULY 27 - 30

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6:30 pm - 9 pm

Tuesday

10 am - 2 pm

6:30 pm - 9 pm

Wednesday

10 am - 2 pm

No Session

Thursday

10 am - 2 pm

6:30 pm - 9 pm

AUGUST 14-15

**Church Leadership Training Overnight featuring
Wanda Lee, National WMU President**

- * At each of these training events, associational training and materials will be available for associational WMU leaders
- * Baptist Book Store display at all training events
- * Free materials from State office and WMU/SBC will be available

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July 24- August 6, 1998

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"When God Says No I've learned that when God says no to my prayers, it's not because He's mean, or didn't hear my prayer, or I didn't pray hard enough, or I didn't use the right formula." Instead it may be because what I've prayed isn't in His plan for my good or the good of others. ...A 'no' can be a unique opportunity to learn something new! ...So the next time God says no, pay attention. You are likely to learn more from that 'no' than from a hundred 'yeses.'"

Bryan and Marlo Schalesky in July/ August 1998 edition of PRAY

Harry Hill is church planter pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, Greensboro, PA. Pray for the many programs and ministries of the church. This includes Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Clubs, community surveys, Bible studies, a weekend for Jesus and a week of evangelistic services the second week of October.

Day of Prayer for World Peace (CAC Emphasis). Pray for two 10 year old girls who were recently baptized in Kobe, Japan. Pray that their spiritual journey with Christ will blossom and be a blessing.

Reconciliation Workshop, Gateway BC, Lumberton, sponsored by Missions Extension & Associational Administration; WMU Church & Associational Leadership Training, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by WMU; Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills Retreat, sponsored by the Brotherhood.

A significant segment of society in Taipei, Taiwan, work in the traditional marketplaces. They interact daily with thousands of families and are a major means of sharing of information about community life. Pray for the salvation of the workers in traditional markets.

Malaysian law prohibits the country's 10 million Muslims from accepting Christ, yet almost 500 have made decisions for Christ. No viable Malay churches exist, so Malay believers worship in multiethnic congregations or home fellowships. Ask God to use Chinese and expatriate Christians living in Malaysia to point Malay Muslims to Christ.

Pray as workers seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Bama people in creative ways that will be acceptable to the government of Myanmar. Ask God to guide them as they use educational and agricultural projects to help the Bama people physically and spiritually.

Baptist representatives Wayne and Florence Frederick, who live in Perpignan, France, asks us to pray for a baptismal service that is scheduled for Aug. 30. Pray that all those who have recently professed Christ will follow his example in believer's baptism and that a positive witness will be given to non-Christians present for the service.

Pray for the believers who are being held by government officials in a Last Frontier country. Pray that they will not lose hope and that their testimonies will draw their captors to Jesus.

Town and Country Music Conference, Bissell BC, Tupelo, sponsored by the Church Music Dept.; II Growing Churches Through Discipleship, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by the Miss. Bapt. Conv. Bd.

Town and Country Music Conference, Glendale BC, Leland, sponsored by Church Music Dept.; Pray that a door will open to reach the unreached Gujarati people in Malawi with the gospel.

Youth Night, Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson, sponsored by the Miss. Bapt. Conv. Bd.; Town and Country Music Conference, Clear Creek BC, Oxford, sponsored by the Church Music Department; Acteens Weekend, 24-26, Camp Garaywa, sponsored by WMU.

Youth Night (identical program as on 24th), Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson, sponsored by Miss. Bapt. Conv. Bd.; III Centrifuge, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Jim Wright is a Mission Service Corps volunteer, who serves as coordinator of a jail-counseling ministry in Killeen, Texas. Pray for more Christian counselors to work in the ministry. Pray that the Spirit of the Lord will continue to move in the hearts of the inmates.



Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

SEPTEMBER

2/87 MISS LAURA WEBB

Casilla de Correo 40, Surcursal 9, 5009 Condoba, ARGENTINA
Parents: Elvin & Janet, General Evangelism

6/84 MR. JOHN FOX

Visanai Biserica Baptist, Str. SF. Nicolae 80., Beltsy 279200, MOLDAVIA
Parents: Thomas & Tammy, General Evangelism

9/95 MISS EMILY HEWITT

Baptist Medical Centre, Box 50, Nalerigu, via Gambaga, GHANA
Parents: Earl & Mona, Medicine

11/82 MISS ARIEL AUSTIN MASSEY

Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
Parents: Gregor & Karen, Music Promotion

18/77 MR. JOHN-RICHARD CARTER

611 Cox Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Parent: Nedra H. Carter (Emeritus), served in South America

18/78 MISS SUMMERS DUNAWAY

WCC, P. O. Box 1205, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Parents: Philip & Lara, Theological Education, serve in Brazil

18/82 MISS APRIL SMITH

Casilla, 223, 8300 Neuguen, ARGENTINA
Parents: Steve & Vidonia, General Evangelism

22/87 MR. KYLE JONES

4, bis, Grande Rue, 54420 Saulxures-les-Nancy, FRANCE
Mike & Pam, General Evangelism

25/79 MR. RYAN KYZAR

Mississippi College, Box 4281, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Russell & Melinda, Music Promotion, serve in Russia

25/86 MISS STEPHANIE SMITH

Casilla 223, 8300 Neuguen, ARGENTINA
Parents: Steve & Vidonia, General Evangelism

27/83 MISS AMY K. LEE

52-31 Matsumidai, Ikoma-shi, 630-02, JAPAN
Parents: Henry & Linda, General Evangelism

The Power to Change Lives

Sunday School
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Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
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HOUSE TOPS

ACCEPTS DEBATE

Editor:

I read with interest Mr. Floyd C. McElveen's letter in the July 9, 1998, issue of the Baptist Record in which he said, "I courteously and in the love of Christ challenge him (me) to a public debate on the subject of Young Earth/Old Earth."

Please inform Mr. McElveen that I accept his offer in like spirit to debate this issue with him and his friend John Morris, Henry Morris' son.

May I suggest a debate on this subject at Mississippi College during the coming fall semester. I have no connections with Mississippi College, so Mr. McElveen would need to make the arrangements.

Perhaps the Baptist Student Union would be willing to sponsor such a debate.

David T. Dockery III
Clinton

FOCUS ON CHRIST

Editor:

After reading the articles by Henry M. Morris, Steve Simmons, L.V. Shumake, Scott Jones, and Floyd C. McElveen, I find myself both surprised and somewhat disappointed that these men who undoubtedly are very well educated and profess to be Christians have not read what the apostle Paul had to say in 1 Cor. 1: 25-29 and 1 Tim. 2:15-16, 23-26.

If King Solomon, the wisest man of all time, did not think it worthy of discussion, why should we?

With men nothing is accepted as fact until it has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Almighty God does not deal in terms of man's reasoning.

He is God and proves nothing to any man until a man comes to God's throne in complete humility and obedience through faith in his only begotten Son Jesus Christ.

When a man comes before God's throne of grace meeting these conditions, the Holy Spirit of God will make himself evident beyond any shadow of doubt.

Almighty God is not a man. Christianity is not a reasonable faith. Christianity is an unreasonable fact.

If the time of the Creation had been important God would have given us the facts. Since he did not choose to do this, let's concentrate upon winning the world to Christ.

Bickering and debate will only hinder the spread of the gospel.

Warren D. Fortson
Brandon

SUNDAY IS FOR WORSHIP

Editor:

In your article on "What's So Special about Sunday?" (Editor's Notebook, May 28), I agree with you 100%.

I have a Bible that tells me God completed heavens and earth in six days. On the sev-

enth day he rested from all his work. God blessed it and made it holy (Gen. 2:2-3).

In Deut. 5:12-14, God said "observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your (our) God." On it you (we) are not to do any work.

I had a pastor who taught me that we are to start preparing our hearts on Saturday for worship on Sunday.

We live in a society that has lost interest in God. You can't tell a Christian from a non-Christian by the way they live and what they do.

Sunday worship is no more than a ritual people go through. They go home and do whatever they want and then make excuses for their actions. God's heart must be terribly grieved.

To me Sunday is a "Special Day" that a loving God made for us to rest and worship him.

We are to be holy just like God said, and we're to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy, too. Thank you, Lord, that you haven't changed or moved; it's Christians.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for writing this article.

Doris Lee
Clinton

HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

Editor:

Readers of The Baptist Record will rejoice that Jack Finegan's "Handbook of Biblical Chronology" is once again available (First Ed. — Princeton Univ. Press 1964; new ed. Hendrickson, 1998 — long out of print).

Finegan himself never ceases to amaze his friends. In July 1998 he turned 90 years of age.

He is the author of dozens of important books and studies on Biblical themes.

The careful student will notice that Finegan has touched on new subjects.

Some of the most important new topics treated are Sabbatical years, Jubilees, and Priestly courses, pp. 116-138 — totally untreated in his first ed. but rendered necessary due to the massive information discovered in these respects at Qumran and by new archaeological sources.

Some of the New Testament period dates newly reached by Finegan are quite controversial especially and will be the subject of intense debate.

Ernest Martin has strongly influenced Finegan in some of his revised NT period dates.

For example Finegan dates the birth of Jesus in Jan. 2 B.C. (pp. 319,366). He dates the death of Herod I in 1 B.C. (p.301).

Finegan's earlier dates for these events were: birth of Jesus — 5 B.C. and death of Herod — 4 B.C. Early church historians have influenced Finegan unduly, in his new positions, as well as E. Martin.

Readers will be interested in the fact that Dale Moody's theories on Pauline Chronology dominate in his dates for Paul (pp. 390-402).

Jerry Vardaman
Starkville

BOYCOTTING OR NOT?

Editor:

Are Southern Baptists boycotting Disney or not?

The article in The Baptist Record on June 18 referenced the SBC meeting in 2000 to be held (in Orlando near) Disney World. Due to some complications the meeting may still go on there.

A boycott does not mean that only the business that you are boycotting will be inconvenienced.

There have been several movies, videos, and toys I have had to do without, to try and let Disney and other corporations know that this immoral sin of homosexuality is not acceptable.

Joyce Hopkins
Brandon

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Editor:

I just wanted to write a note of thanks to the many of you for your prayers and concern on my recent mission endeavor.

A group of 183 volunteers of the International Mission Board (I was the only volunteer from our state) spent 14 days in Germany on partnership missions with Dr. Dub Jackson from Abilene, Texas.

I led a group of seven to northern Germany to work with two churches there and found God doing great and mighty things among them.

The Lord enriched us all in his service and Dr. and Mrs. Jackson, who are the pioneers of volunteer partnership missions, inspired us all.

I want to in particular thank the church, I have the privilege of pastoring, Crowder Church, for allowing me to go and generously giving towards my trip and praying for our teams.

I also would like to thank the Mantee Church for graciously providing the prayers and resources for the trip and in particular the foresight and love of missions that my wife's grandfather from Mantee Church, the late Alonzo Skelton, had in setting up this mission fund for ministers to utilize in serving on international fields: thereby, leading their churches toward devoted evangelistic and mission activity.

Ben James, pastor
Crowder Church, Crowder

PREPARE FOR MINISTRY

Editor:

The letter of June 11 (teaching as a ministry) from Don Windham was of interest.

If God calls a person to a church related ministry, I feel that that person should prepare to do that ministry to the best of his ability. One should also go wherever God directs in that ministry.

If God calls a person to a teaching ministry in the education system, one should prepare himself to do that ministry to the best of his/her ministry.

I see no problem if one follows God's will.

Jim Burke
Waynesboro



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Disney profit forecasts not too rosy

NEW YORK (BP) — The Disney Company is struggling on Wall Street and a number of analysts have cut their profit forecasts for Disney, Bloomberg Financial Markets News reported June 19. Among the analysts:

Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs & Co, whose analysts are among "the most respected media analysts on Wall Street," Bloomberg reported; Paine Webber; and NationsBank Montgomery SEC, Inc.

Time magazine reported June 15: "After a long run as one of the brightest stars in the Dow (Jones) firmament, the company's stock has slipped 10% in the past month."

A variety of causes were cited in reports by Time, Bloomberg, and Reuters, but none cited any effect of the Disney boycott by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and other religious groups.

As cited by various analysts in the Bloomberg and Reuters news reports, the factors dogging Disney include:

- "disappointing," "weaker-than-expected" box office performances by recent Disney-subsidary films, including "The Horse Whisperer" starring Robert Redford.

- "softer-than-expected" or only "modest gains" in Disney World attendance in Florida.

- Disney's ABC television network, which as

Bloomberg described it, "continues to struggle with a sharp decline in its ratings."

- "softness in sales of consumer products," as Bloomberg put it.

- "a difficult international marketplace," as one analyst put it, with another citing Disney's "softness" overseas, especially in Japan and Europe.

Additional factors were a "brain drain" of departing Disney executives under company chairman Michael Eisner, according to the Time article June 15; higher costs of ABC's NFL broadcasts; increased write-offs from live-action movies; and start-up costs for Disney's newest Florida attraction, Animal Kingdom, which otherwise was described by one analyst as "doing quite well."

"Disney can't afford to have more than one division underperforming at the same time," Bloomberg quoted analyst Barry Hyman of Ehrenkrantz King Nussbaum as saying. "ABC continues to have problems and film just adds to the woes of the company for the short term," Hyman said.

Another analyst, however, Marvin Roffman of Roffman Miller Associates, who remains a Disney proponent, told Bloomberg: "We don't think the fundamentals for wanting to own the stock has changed. These are just blips."



NAMES IN THE NEWS

VBS dates

Rock Hill, Brandon: July 27-31; 6-8:30 p.m.



Homewood Church, Homewood, recently held ordination for three new deacons. Pictured (from left) are James Shoemaker; Randy Harrison; Doyle Boyles, pastor; and John Harrison.



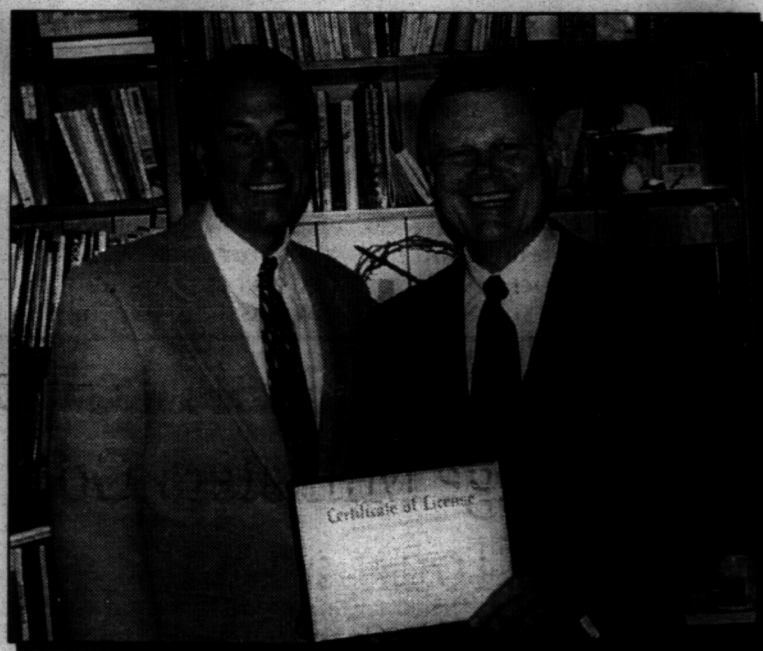
Joey Ward was recently licensed to the ministry by First Church, Saltillo. Pictured (from left) are Ward and Ken Anderson, pastor. Ward is available for pulpit supply and youth ministry. To contact him, call (601) 869-5742.



Bennie Harris was honored with a plaque, roses, and a reception on VBS family night, June 7. She served her 50th consecutive year in Bible School this summer at Scooba Church, Scooba. Harris has been a VBS worker in at least 16 different churches in Alabama and Mississippi. Pictured with Harris is Mary Dudley, VBS director. Harold Harris Jr. (husband of Bennie Harris) is pastor.



Kendal Boutwell was licensed to the ministry by Shiloh Church, Lawrence Association, on May 31. Available for revivals and pulpit supply, he may be contacted at (601) 587-9329. Pictured with Boutwell is Eddie Bates, pastor.



Broadmoor Church, Jackson, licensed Bobby Armstrong to the ministry in September, 1997. Pictured (from left) are Armstrong and Jim Futral, pastor.



Parkway Church, Houston, recently ordained **John Passons, Tim Fleming, Kevin Faulkner, and Hugh Thaxton** as new deacons. Pictured (from left) are Passons, Fleming, Faulkner, Thaxton, and Gregg Thomas, pastor.

Leesburg Church, Morton, will honor Odus Jackson, pastor, and his wife Peggy, with a retirement reception in fellowship hall, July 26, from 2-4 p.m. He was ordained on July 26, 1959, by Galilee Church, Gloster.

His retirement is effective July 26, 1998, exactly 39 years to the day when he was ordained. He has plans to conduct Christian Growth Seminars, Bible Conferences, revivals, and Celebrating the Power of God Crusades. The Jacksons moved to Leesburg Church on Nov. 6, 1986.

First Church, Leland, recently honored Jon Doler for 10 years of service as pastor. A special recognition was held during the morning worship service and a love offering was given to the Doler family. He and his wife, the former Scotti Wilson of Bellefontaine, are the parents of three children.

Progress Church, Pike Association, honored Billy Ray Simmons on May 24 for 20 years of service as pastor. He has also served

as pastor of Clear Creek Mission, Quitman County; Mission Church, Montgomery County; Mt. Zion Church, Pike County; New Hope Church in Washington Parish, La.; and Oak Grove Church, Amite County.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Columbia, recently held a GARA recognition service.



First Church, Byram, recently held a mission recognition service.

HOMEcomings

Mount Zion, Mount Olive: July 26; 10:30 a.m. service with Gerald Aultman, as speaker, lunch at noon, and afternoon service with Tim Roberts as speaker; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: July 26; 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall following service; Marion Spence, pastor.

First, Raleigh: Aug. 2; Robert Perry, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; Jerry Sullivan, pastor.

Sardis (Smith): Aug. 2; 10:30 a.m.; Steve White, former pastor, message; noon meal in fellowship hall followed by gospel sing in afternoon; offerings will go to cemetery fund.

Hurley, Hurley: July 26; 50th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship with Walter Johnson; old fashion dinner on the grounds; 1:30 p.m. sing with Hovie Walker; for further information, call (228) 588-3435.

Darlove (Washington): Aug. 2; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; John West, Newton, message; Duke and Linda Barnes, music.

Valley Park, Valley Park: 75th anniversary; Aug. 2; 11 a.m., fellowship meal following

morning service, and 7 p.m.; revival, Aug. 2-5; Dennis Salley Jr., pastor.

Crowder (North Delta): Aug. 9; 10:30 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; Harvey Sewell, Dumas, evangelist; Living Proof Singers, music; Ben James, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, Batesville: Sept. 6; 113th anniversary; services, 11 a.m., covered dish dinner, and 1:30 p.m. singing with Southern Harmony, guest quartet; Guy Reedy, Water Valley, guest speaker; Derek Boyd, pastor.

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Office of Continuing Education

Box 4031

Clinton, MS 39058



Mississippi College

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Clyde Muse, president of Hinds Community College, Raymond, will be the guest speaker at the Mississippi College (MC) summer graduation exercises on Aug. 1. The commencement ceremonies, closing the 172nd academic session, are scheduled for 10

a.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Degrees will be conferred by MC President Howell W. Todd.

Mississippi College Department of Music will present Kristi Kennedy of Clinton, student of Nell Adams, in senior recital on July 23 at 4 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Kennedy is the daughter of Gordon and Emily Kennedy and is a member of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton.

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Harry F. Jones, minister, dies

Harry F. Jones of Clinton, 83, died of heart failure July 7 at Methodist Healthcare.

Services were held July 9 at Lakewood Memorial Funeral Home with burial in Raymond City Cemetery.

Jones was a native of Jones County. He had pastored churches in Pike, Yazoo, Copiah, Leake, Pearl River, Hinds, and Holmes counties.

A member of Parkway Church, Jones graduated from Clarke Memorial College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Survivors include: wife, Gladys; son, Doyle Jones of Clinton; daughter, Shirley Smith of Huntsville, Ala.; brothers, Carsie Jones of Houston, Texas, and James Jones of Sonora, Calif.; sisters, Gertrude Quates of Moselle, Marie Crosby of Seminary, Lily Faye Cannemela of Columbus, Ga., and Azzie Lee Spiers of Manor, Texas; and four grandchildren.

Ladies' Bible Conf. planned

Salem Heights Church, Laurel, will host its third annual Ladies' Bible Conference on Aug. 7 with sessions starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m. and on Aug. 8 from 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There will be 12 seminar leaders and topics offered on Friday night and Saturday afternoon which centers around the theme of a faith



Parker

that is real — Real Faith Embraces Truth — Thy Word is Truth. (John 17:17)

On program will be Angelique Kendrick, who will lead in praise, worship, and seminars; Julie Kuykendall will lead the general sessions; and Dwayne Parker, minister of youth and activities director at First Church, Flora, and who will be returning to Southwestern Seminary for completion of his masters of arts degree.

Registration cost is \$5 which includes two meals for Friday and brunch on Saturday. For more information and to register, call the church at (601) 763-7571.



Kendrick Ministries of Laurel recently distributed Bibles in El Salvador. Patricia Keyes (fifth from left) will be assisting in the upcoming Ladies Bible conference at Salem Heights Church, Laurel.

REVIVAL DATES

Liberty, Raleigh: July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clay Chancellor, evangelist; McKay Pierce, music; Jeff Mann, pastor.

New Hope (Pontotoc): July 26-31; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Andy Russell, evangelist; Winston Ross, pastor.

Calvary (Carroll): July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m., meal at church; worship, 7 p.m.; Bernard Nail, Brandon, evangelist; Jimmy Hood, singer; Lavon Hatton, pastor.

Mt. Pleasant, Bogue Chitto: July 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish luncheon, and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Robert H. Scott, evangelist; Mike and Angela Britt, music; Anthony Yarborough, pastor.

First Church of Lyman, Gulfport: revival services each Monday night in August; 7 p.m.; guest speakers are Dale Funderburg of Gulfport, Jimmy Porter of McComb, Jim Futral of Jackson, and Jim Shaddix and Don Stewart from New Orleans Seminary; for more information call the church office at (601) 832-2159.

New Sardis, Mount Olive: July 26-31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Charles Burnham, Mendenhall, evangelist; Ray Gates, Brandon, music; James Garner, pastor.

Valley Park, Valley Park: Aug. 2-5; 75th anniversary; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., fellowship meal, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Sheppard, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, music; Dennis Salley Jr., pastor.

Walnut, Walnut: July 26-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Larry Robertson, Alabama Baptist Evangelism Department, evangelist; Shawn Davis, Ripley, music; Samuel Cox, pastor.

Anding, Bentonia: July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall, 1:30 p.m. singing; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Kerry Burrough, Bentonia, evangelist; George Felder, Yazoo City, music; Joe Hill, pastor.

First, Runnelstown: July 26-31; Sun., Sunday School, 9 a.m., worship, 10 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Ray Blackwell, guest evangelist; Mark Taylor, music; Henry Freeman, pastor.

Calhoun, Hot Coffee: July 26-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; different evangelist nightly include Bruce Jolly, director of missions, Covington-Jefferson Davis Association; Archie Herrin, director of missions, Walthall Association; Mike Alexander Jayess; Chris Thomas, Mize; Judene Purser, Louin; and Ralph Graves, Laurel; Larry Yarber, Prentiss, music; Ronald Purser, pastor.

Midway, Newton: July 26-29; 120th anniversary and homecoming; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. worship, 11:30 a.m. fellowship meal, 1 p.m. historical worship service, 2:30 p.m. pastorium open house; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Mike Smith, director of missions, Neshoba Association, and former pastor, evangelist; Joe Vance, Newton, music; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Gillsburg, Osyka: July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Hankins, evangelist; Ben Caston, music; Eric Hankins, pastor.

Mount Zion, Mount Olive: July 27-31; 7:30 p.m.; Gerald Aultman, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Joel Eavenson, pastor.

Mount Olive, Smithdale: July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James H. Hall, New Albany, evangelist; Mark Calcote, Smithdale, music; Michael L. Soesbe, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: July 26-31; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Chuck Herring, Richland, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Pelahatchie, music; Marion Spence, pastor.

First, Raleigh: Aug. 2-8; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Byron Cutrer, Mobile, Ala., music; Jerry Sullivan, pastor.

Tyro (Tate): July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Larry Tapp and Otha Geeslin will conduct services; Gary Newton, pastor.

First, Sumrall: Aug. 2-5; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Ronny Robinson, executive director, Baptist Children's Village, evangelist; Bill Herman, Petal, music; Glenn Davis, pastor.

Crowder (North Delta): Aug. 9-12; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; James Richardson, Madison, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, Decatur, Ala., music; Ben James, pastor.

Ludlow (Scott): July 26-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Martin Hayden, Liberty, evangelist; Billy Charles Beaver, music; Betty Powell, pianist; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

Spring Creek, Philadelphia: July 26-29; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, Corinth, evangelist; Wayne King, pastor.

Cato, Mendenhall: Aug. 2-7; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Daryl Oster, evangelist; Lowell Ingram, pastor.

First, Marion: Aug. 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Keith Grubbs, Meridian, evangelist; Eddie Wells, Meridian, music; Walter M. Blackman, pastor.



Ron M. Power, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

My soul is empty. How can I satisfy this unexplainable longing that I feel?

In a world where everyone seems to be going somewhere, doing something, or being somebody, there is a great deal of emptiness out there. Such longing as you feel cannot be satisfied with possessions, relationships, or addictions. When you talk about an empty soul, you are talking about the essence of your being. Answer these questions, and you will likely answer why your soul feels so empty.

- What are your values and standards? When everyone abandons you, you need to have a firm foundation on which to weather the storm.

- Who are you trying to please? Look at the people around you and discern whether their opinions should be important to you. Make sure these people match up to your personal standards.

- Where does God fit in your life? Without God, you will not find what you seek for your life. The Bible states, "But first seek his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt. 6:33 NIV)

A satisfied soul comes from a spiritual diet that is balanced and nutritious, not from the junk food the world offers. Take in what is good for you, and not just the things that look good.

What would you do if you discovered the person who means more to you than anything is leading what amounts to a double life?

First of all, thank the Lord for revealing this to you even though such a revelation may not seem like a blessing right now. Pray for the unmet needs that make this special person lead a double life, and remember that we all lead "double lives" to the extent that we have done sinful and embarrassing things we would rather keep a secret. The Apostle Paul made this clear when he wrote, "I do not understand what I want to do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate to do." (Rom. 7:15 NIV.) For many people, their sins find them out in a very visible way; leading to the conclusion that such a person has been leading a double life. Pray for this special person and find out what is going on (or has gone on in the past) that would lead to this type of behavior. Your friend needs help, and possibly more help than you can offer. Encourage him/her to seek Christian counseling. Listen with your heart full of Christ. Possibly you can help this special person keep compulsions and desires in check and find his/her way back to normalcy.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

LIFE AND WORK

Be reconciled

Gen. 50:15-21; Matt. 5:23-24; Col. 3:12-15

By Kevin Hand

God is in the repair and restoration business. He fixes things. He fixes people. Our Father wants us to follow him in the family business. As God's children, we are to salvage and mend broken relationships which have been torn apart by conflict. Broken relationships can and must be restored. The repairing of relationships is sometimes called reconciliation.

In God's eyes, reconciliation is serious business. We are called to be reconciled to him and to one another. However, some Christians never make any attempt to be reconciled to those with whom they have had a conflict.

Others say they have truly

forgiven someone who has wronged them, but in reality continue to think about the incident or discuss it with others.

This week's lesson will help us understand how a Christian should go about pursuing genuine reconciliation in a conflict situation. We can learn how to repair our broken relationships.

Be ready to restore (Gen. 50:15-21). After their father's death, Joseph's brothers were afraid Joseph would take out revenge on them for their mistreatment of him years earlier. They sent a message to Joseph requesting forgiveness.

When his brothers approached him and fell before him, Joseph did not judge them. He pointed out that God

had brought good from the wrong they had done. Speaking kind and assuring words to his brothers, Joseph assured them that he would provide for them and their families.

Like Joseph, we should be ready to restore relationships with those who have wronged us. We need to look for opportunities to be reconciled to them and seek to do good toward them.

Make reconciliation a priority (Matt. 5:23-24). Jesus placed a high priority on peacemaking. He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9, NIV).

As part of the peacemaking process, Jesus instructed his followers to be reconciled to people who had something against them. When a believer came to worship and remembered that someone held something against him or her, the believer was to go immediately, be reconciled to the other person, and then return to resume worship.



Hand

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Coping with undeserved suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

By William H. Sims, III

Adoniram Judson, the renowned missionary to Burma, was thrown into Ava Prison, and for seventeen months was subjected to incredible mistreatment. As a result, he carried the ugly marks made by the chains and iron shackles which had cruelly bound him.

Upon his release, he asked permission to enter another province to proclaim Christ. The godless ruler denied his request saying, "My people are not fools enough to listen to a missionary, but I fear they might be impressed by your scars and

turn to your religion."

What sea has no waves? What land has no rain? Life is filled with trials and triumphs. For the believer, we find total confidence in the power of the Lord.

Recognize that Christians suffer (4:12). The word "beloved" assured the readers of Peter's sympathetic concern. Peter knew that those in Asia Minor were experiencing sufferings, and they should learn from the examples of Jesus.

"Fiery trial" points to the intensity and unexpectedness of suffering which comes upon Christians.



Sims

Rejoice in the midst of suffering (4:13-14). During the darkest moments of our lives, Jesus shines the brightest! As Christ suffered, we are "partakers" by suffering for him. When Jesus returns, all Christian suffering will end.

The word "reproached" in verse 14 meant to be rejected by society. This rejection comes from following Jesus with heart and soul. Whoever you are, when you completely follow God's holy Word, the world will disown you. We find strength in the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:11-12. Always remember, God's Holy Spirit will guard and guide us during our suffering. Jesus will never leave his children.

Refrain from evil (4:15). All suffering is not a result of serving Jesus. Many times suffering is because of sinful actions.

Peter mentioned two specific acts of voluntary suffering: a murderer and a thief.

The word "busybody" or meddler refers to someone who interferes in the business of others. I have always heard "if I will take care of my own business, I will find myself very busy."

Refuse personal glory (4:16-18). The word "Christian" means follower of Christ. We find this first used in Acts 11:26. As God's children we should not be ashamed for suffering. We need to be strong and know that God is always present. God will not leave us during difficulty.

Peter admonished those suffering to give glory to God while suffering. Many take pride and desire notice while suffering. Any action that denies glory to the Father is selfishness. When we finish well, the reason is Jesus, not self.

Peter encouraged those suffering to leave all judgment with

God. No one will be excused from the refining fire of God's judgment. Peter used Proverbs 11:31 to support this truth.

Rely On God (4:19) Those who suffer must remember God's permissive will. I believe that nothing happens to God's children without God's permission. God is in total control. When situations seem difficult to understand, God is faithful and will protect to the end. Remember, when accepting Jesus, your life was laid on the altar. The word "entrust" or "commit" means to hand over to another. We have given our life over to Jesus Christ, and he will keep us to the end.

Whatever you are going through, remember Jesus will always be there for you. Trust God and believe daily he is watching over you. GOD IS ABLE!

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Live with integrity

Proverbs 28:4-10, 13

By Nancie E. Simmons

It has been said, "Honesty is the best quality." Honesty means that a person will have integrity or do what is upright in all situations.

Men considered "gentlemen" in the olden days could place their family seal or "word of honor" on a binding agreement and it was considered completely trustworthy. Whatever was promised would be carried out because people held great respect for their reputations.

Unfortunately, reputation does not hold the importance that it once did and people will make promises without intending to keep them. How do you live with integrity in

the situations of your life?

Integrity of convictions (28:4-5). Our actions show where our loyalties are. We find what is thought to be acceptable behavior in many different places, such as in magazines, on TV, at the movies, or through friends. Seeing these behaviors time and time again, whether right or wrong, can cause our sense of right to become blurred.

When I was growing up it seemed there was very little profanity on television. Today it seems few shows are without it. This is only one example of standards being lowered in today's society. God plainly tells us what is right and what is wrong; it is



Simmons

no mystery. A person who studies the Bible and has a strong relationship with God, will not have any trouble telling what is of this world and what is from God.

Integrity in relationships (28:6-9). They say it is "all in who you know." We should surround ourselves with godly people who can give support in times of trouble. These people will help us to follow God's Word when dealing with problems and battling daily pressures to sin. There is always strength in numbers.

Sometimes we have the wrong motives when meeting influential people. We know that the right person could get us a job or a better social position.

The most influential person we could know is Jesus Christ because he will get us into the best neighborhood, located through those big pearly gates.

God also promises to supply all our needs here on earth. If we try to make things happen by our own power then we are letting "self" supply all our needs.

Integrity of influence (28:10). People may not realize the effect their actions have on someone else. Younger people are always looking for role models.

We should never be a stumbling block for another Christian. We sometimes "live in the moment" and do not stop to think what effects our actions could have on tomorrow. Everything we do will effect someone else and God sees all that we do no matter how we try to hide it.

Integrity with God (28:13). We are all sinners, so why do we spend so much time trying to pretend like we are perfect? I feel guilty when I know I have done wrong and I am always ashamed to tell God about it.

Be honest with God, deal with the sin, and do it immedi-

ately to keep from feeling separated from him. The great thing about asking for God's forgiveness is that he forgives and he forgets, forever. We should do the same when we forgive those that have hurt us.

It is hard to tell the truth sometimes, especially when it will hurt someone else. As a child I would be punished much worse if I had lied to try and cover up my mistake.

If we strive from the beginning to do what is right in all situations, surround ourselves with godly people to find strength, and stay buried in the Word of God to know what is right, then we can bypass many unnecessary mistakes. We will still mess up because we are sinners but if we have God's "seal" on our heart, we have his "word of honor" he will always forgive us and forget it!

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

Dallas pastor: North Korean famine worsening

HOUSTON (ABP) — The plight of famine victims has worsened since he was first in North Korea last November, said Yoo Jong Yoon, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's (CBF) Asian network.

Yoon, in Houston for CBF's general assembly, June 25-27, returned to the United States May 23 after arranging for delivery of 240 tons of corn purchased with funds contributed through the Atlanta-based Fellowship.

Yoon, a Dallas pastor, purchased the corn for starving North Koreans with \$41,000 of CBF funds. He also used \$10,000, donated by the Korean American Sharing Movement of Dallas, to buy 5,000 pairs of shoes for distribution in schools and orphanages. CBF has sent another \$47,000 for North Korean famine victims through the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

Additional contributions of about \$25,000 to North Korea hunger relief have increased CBF's total to about \$113,000, CBF staffer Tom Prevost told the Fellowship's global-missions ministries group, meeting in Houston, June 25.

The group voted to distribute the additional funds through the BWA and the Asian Network.

North Korea, which still considers the United States an enemy 40 years after the Korean War, has been beset in recent years by a series of natural disasters and economic hardship. Ironically, the famine opened the road to the peace table.

That word came from John LaNoue of Dallas, who spent 85 days in Korea last fall, monitoring food shipments by non-governmental humanitarian organizations, including 130 tons supplied by Texas

Baptists. He traveled to Korea under the auspices of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and Amigos Internacionales, a non-profit relief and development organization based in Waco, Texas.

LaNoue, of the Texas Baptist Men's organization, was told at a debriefing with a U.S. congressional committee that the humanitarian relief was instrumental in bringing North Korea to a peace summit in Geneva.

Yoon, pastor of Glory Church in Dallas, has maintained close communication with Paul Montacute, who directs Baptist World Aid, relief arm of the BWA.

BWAid thus far has used about \$6,000 of the \$47,000 previously allotted by CBF to support grain shipments to North Korea through the Canadian Food Grains Bank by Canadian Baptists, Montacute said. The remainder paid for large quantities of food, medicine and seed.

Montacute said BWAid sought "to multiply the value of the dollars received by working to find donated goods to ship."

For example, he said, BWAid paid \$15,676 to ship a container of donated medicine "with a wholesale value exceeding \$690,000."

Through mid June, the BWA has also paid another \$13,293 to buy and ship 45,000 pounds of food to North Korea, \$24,000 to buy corn seed in China, and about \$2,000 for on-site food distribution costs, according to Lee Hickman in the BWAid office in McLean, Va.

"People are hungrier and more malnourished than when

we were there last fall," said Yoon, who has traveled twice to North Korea since his first visit last November.

Korean Texas Baptists, he said, have donated \$20,000 for North Korean famine relief through the Baptist General Convention of Texas and are looking for additional ways to become involved in physical and spiritual ministries.

"Our purpose is to deliver relief aid and open opportunities for the spread of the gospel," Yoon said.

After his most recent trip, Yoon reported that adults are allowed only a handful of corn per day — "and corn is all they have."

"There's no sugar; no oil. Corn alone cannot provide enough nutrients," he said.

"May, June, and July are critical months. There's a possibility they may have some harvest in July, but they badly need fertilizer. An official in North Korea's Compatriot Department told me, 'If you can find fertilizer, we

will send a ship to get it. With fertilizer, farmers can produce five to six times as much food.'"

In Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, Yoon visited the nursery area of a hospital where officials told him newborns are much smaller than they were a few years ago, and many die from malnutrition within a few days after they are born.

When he asked why critically ill infants weren't put into incubators, the administrator explained that only two of the hospital's incubators are operable.

Yoon observed malnourished workers lying beneath the trees, obviously lacking the energy to do their jobs.

And he recalled an even more pitiful sight at one of the country's eight government orphanages that has nearly tripled its population.

Many children lay motionless on mattresses on the floor — their skinny limbs and swollen stomachs graphic evidence of famine, he said.

Hunger funds aid drought victims

NIAMEY, Niger (BP) — Pained by the desperation of hunger around them, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in Niger have begun distributing food — and the love of Jesus — to starving people in the West African country.

Last year's harvest was the worst in the past 15 years. "Daily, we are confronted with starving people, and we have done our best with the resources we have, but we have watched as both adults and children die," said missionary Brad Womble.

"We have seen old men and women get down on their knees to beg for food or give thanks for the little we have been able to give," he said. "We have seen village chiefs sell their animals and possessions so their people could eat. We have watched as children wasted away and died."

"It has become a struggle at times to leave the house because we know that we will be faced by hunger," he added.

Womble shared how two preaching points had been established in one village since the last time the hungry were helped there. "Please rest assured that the people will know it is the love of Jesus being shared, and they will have a chance to respond to that love," he said.

"I know that they (the missionary team) will do all it takes to allow the gospel to pour forth with the grain."

Partly because of increased giving to Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund this year, \$135,450 was released in May for Zarma people living in rural areas around three villages and \$337,500 was released in June for nearly 100,000 Hausa Muslims.

At \$3.2 million, World Hunger Fund receipts through May were running nearly 30% more than what they were during the same period last year. At \$4 million, appropriations were 136 percent higher than last year's during the same period.

"Southern Baptists are a caring people, and they want to respond," said Bill Cashion, human needs consultant for the International Mission Board. "They want to give the bread, but they want to give the Bread of Life, too. Their missionaries overseas are doing just that."



Bibliocipher

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WSJUI NL E DUVNGR
TMU FNGJ NG WSJ LWU-
IJWL; EZZ BMV NL
HEUCJGJH, WSJ QNUWS
MT WSJ ZEGH NL RMGJ.

NLENES WFJGWV-TMKU:

IJZPJG

Clue: V = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six Twenty-Eight.

Bill would ban transport of minors for abortions

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee has approved legislation prohibiting the transportation of minors across state lines for abortions in order to evade state parental involvement laws.

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., have both said they plan floor votes this summer on the Child Custody Protection Act.

The bill would make it an offense for a person to transport a minor to another state for an abortion without the parents' involvement when the state in which the girl lives requires either parental notification or consent before such a procedure. A person violating the law could be fined and/or be imprisoned for a maximum of a

year. The legislation also would permit parents to sue those who violate the law.

The White House, meanwhile, said in a letter it "strongly opposes the bill" unless changes are made. In a June 17 letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., President Clinton's chief of staff, Erskine Bowles, said among the amendments required for White House support is the exclusion of "close family members" — such as grandmothers, aunts and siblings — from liability.

The issue was brought to the public's attention largely by the 1995 case of a Pennsylvania eighth-grader who was transported to New York for an abortion by the stepmother of the 18-year-old man who impregnated her. Apparently, such efforts to keep parents from knowing of a daugh-

ter's pregnancy and/or abortion take place with some frequency. Abortion rights lawyer Kathryn Kolbert of the New York-based Center for Reproductive Law and Policy said in 1995 thousands of adults are helping minors travel from states with parental involvement laws to obtain abortions, according to an Associated Press article in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Twenty-two states have laws in effect requiring the notification or consent of at least one parent or guardian, or authorization by a judge, before a minor can have an abortion.

The bill is H.R. 3682 in the House and S. 1645 in the Senate. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., is the lead sponsor in the House, and Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich., is the chief sponsor in the Senate.